

# Lesson 16. Rural Security

## Lesson Purpose

To focus on the unique crime problems of rural communities and learn key strategies for reducing them.

## Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Identify basic safety and security practices.
- Describe specific strategies for preventing the theft of crops, timber, livestock and equipment.
- Complete a Farm Security Checklist.

## Materials

Presentation: Rural Security

Handout(s): *“Don’t Let Your Guard Down Just Because You Live in the Country”* and the Farm Security Checklist.

Supplement: *“Lock Crime Out of Your Home”* and *“How Can I Make My Home Safer,”* from the National Crime Prevention Council. Download at [www.ncpc.org/](http://www.ncpc.org/)  
Display newspaper and magazine articles about crimes involving crimes in rural areas.

## Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

## Lesson Plan

Time	Main Points	Slide
<b>Introduction</b>		
5 min.	Rural communities have their own unique crime problems – like theft of crops, timber, livestock and expensive farm equipment. Invest some time and money in prevention now. What’s the payoff? Better security around your property, less worry about crime and your family’s safety.	1 - 2
	Briefly describe some local examples of crimes in rural areas.	
	Today we’ll look at some basic safety and security measures that you can take to protect your property and your family’s safety, and we’ll complete a Farm Security Checklist that can help you identify areas that need attention.	2
	Distribute handout: <i>“Don’t Let Your Guard Down Just Because You Live in the Country”</i>	

Time	Main Points	Slide
<b>Presentation</b>		
3 min.	<b>Most important strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be a good neighbor – keep an eye on your neighbors' homes, livestock and equipment.</li> <li>▪ Tell them, and the sheriff or police, about anything that makes you uneasy or suspicious.</li> </ul>	3
3 min.	<b>Check the doors and locks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Make sure outside doors – in your home and outbuildings – are solid wood or metal and have deadbolt locks.</li> <li>▪ Use the locks!</li> <li>▪ Secure sliding glass doors.</li> <li>▪ Secure double-hung windows with a bolt or nail.</li> <li>▪ Secure basement windows well.</li> </ul>	4
3 min.	<b>Check the outside</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keep everything well-lighted at night. Use timers that automatically turn on outside lights when it gets dark.</li> <li>▪ Consider motion sensors that set off lights or alarms.</li> <li>▪ Prune back shrubbery.</li> <li>▪ Keep your fences in good repair.</li> <li>▪ Secure access roads.</li> <li>▪ Post "No Trespassing" and "No Hunting" signs around your property.</li> </ul>	5
3 min.	<b>Mark equipment and livestock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operation Identification – Marking tools, guns, and equipment with a permanent identification number.</li> <li>▪ Stop modern rustlers - tattoo all livestock (usually on the ears).</li> <li>▪ Take regular counts of all livestock.</li> </ul>	6
4 min.	<b>Protect your equipment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secure gas pumps, gas tanks, storage bins and grain elevators.</li> <li>▪ Keep small equipment locked in a barn or garage.</li> <li>▪ Keep guns locked and unloaded in a secure place.</li> <li>▪ Never leave keys in vehicles or farm equipment; always lock them up when they're not in use.</li> </ul>	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Don't leave tools in the back of a pick-up, or in an unsecured truck bed toolbox.</li> <li>▪ Don't leave major equipment in a field overnight.</li> <li>▪ If machines must be left out, disable them by removing the rotor, distributor, or battery.</li> </ul>	8

Time	Main Points	Slide
2 min.	<p><b>Guard your crops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Store harvested crops in protected and locked locations.</li> <li>▪ Consider marking grain, hay, or similar crops with nontoxic confetti.</li> <li>▪ Keep a record of your valuable timber.</li> <li>▪ Keep storage areas neat and well-organized so that any theft will be noticed immediately.</li> </ul> <p>Check your employees' references.</p> <p>Orient new employees to your crime prevention measures.</p>	9
3 min.	<p><b>Help neighbors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Form a Neighborhood Watch or Farm Watch group.</li> <li>▪ When you go away: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Stop delivery of your mail and newspapers, or ask a neighbor to pick them up.</li> <li>– Create the illusion that someone's at home and is following everyday routines.</li> <li>– Have neighbors check your property and return the favor when they leave on business or vacation trips.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10
3 min.	<p><b>Take a stand!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ask equipment dealers and farm suppliers to display crime prevention information.</li> <li>▪ Help start an alcohol-, drug-, and crime-prevention program in local schools.</li> <li>▪ Make sure teens in your community have recreational opportunities after school and on weekends.</li> <li>▪ Educate young people about the hazards of operating farm machinery and being around livestock.</li> </ul>	11
2 min.	<p><b>Summarizing</b> (briefly highlight each area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best strategy – Be a good neighbor.</li> <li>▪ Doors and locks.</li> <li>▪ Outdoor security.</li> <li>▪ Securing equipment.</li> <li>▪ Livestock and crops.</li> <li>▪ Neighbors and community.</li> </ul>	12

Time	Main Points	Slide
<b>Practice/feedback</b>		
12 min.	<p>Distribute the Farm Security Checklist, and ask participants to form pairs or small groups of 3 or 4.</p> <p>Ask participants to individually complete the checklist, then to discuss their responses to checklist items within the small group. During this activity, the instructor should circulate among groups and briefly look at checklist responses, while listening to discussions.</p> <p>Conclude this activity by reviewing the areas where participants are using effective crime prevention strategies and by identifying the areas where improvement is needed.</p>	13

<b>Evaluation</b>		
10 min.	<p><b>Set-up</b></p> <p>We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we're doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we'd like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p><b>Wrap-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation.</li> <li>▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak.</li> <li>▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms.</li> </ul>	14

# Farm Security Checklist

Yes	No	<b>DOORS AND LOCKS</b>
		Outside doors – in your home and outbuildings – are solid wood or metal and have deadbolt locks.
		Locks are used.
		Sliding glass doors are secured with locks, or with a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track.
		Screws are inserted in the upper track going into the fixed frame to prevent anyone from lifting the door from its track.
		Double-hung windows are secured by a bolt or nail.
		Basement windows are secured.
		<b>OUTSIDE</b>
		House, driveway, barns and other buildings are well-lighted at night.
		Outside lights automatically turn on when it gets dark.
		Motion sensors are in use to set off lights or alarms.
		Shrubbery that hides doors, windows, lights and would-be burglars is trimmed back.
		Fences are in good repair.
		All access roads are secured with gates or cables stretched between posts cemented into the ground. They are visible with flags or streamers.
		“No Trespassing” and/or “No Hunting” signs are posted noticeably around your property.
		<b>EQUIPMENT AND LIVESTOCK</b>
		Tools, guns and equipment are marked with a permanent identification number.
		All livestock are tattooed or otherwise permanently marked.
		Livestock are counted regularly.
		<b>EQUIPMENT</b>
		Gas pumps, gas tanks, storage bins and grain elevators are secured with sturdy padlocks or deadbolts.
		Small equipment – like mowers, bikes, snowmobiles – are locked in a barn or garage.
		Guns are locked and unloaded in a secure place away from curious children and would-be thieves.
		Keys are never left in vehicles or farm equipment.

Yes	No	<b>EQUIPMENT</b>
		Trucks and other vehicles always are locked when they're not in use.
		Tools are not left in the open back of a pick-up truck, or in an unsecured truck bed toolbox.
		Major equipment is not left in a field overnight.
		Major equipment is locked in a barn or shed near the house, or where it can be seen from your house or a neighbor's house.
		If machines must be left out for long periods of time, they are disabled.
		<b>CROPS</b>
		Harvested crops are in protected and locked locations.
		Grain, hay, or similar crops are marked with nontoxic confetti that is easily removed by storage or processing facilities.
		Records of valuable timber are kept; timber is marked.
		Storage areas are neat and well-organized so that any theft will be noticed immediately.
		Your employees' references are checked.
		Crime prevention measures are explained to/practiced by employees.
		<b>COMMUNITY</b>
		There is a Neighborhood Watch or Farm Watch in the community.
		When away, delivery of mail and newspapers is stopped, or a neighbor picks them up.
		When away, neighbors check your property.
		Equipment dealers and farm suppliers display crime prevention information.
		The schools have an alcohol-, drug-, and crime-prevention curriculum in place.
		There are recreational opportunities for teens.

## 16. Rural Security

Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I now know more about basic safety and security practices in rural areas.	1	2	3	4
b) I now can identify strategies for preventing the theft of crops, timber and livestock.	1	2	3	4
c) I now know more strategies for preventing the theft of equipment.	1	2	3	4
d) I know more strategies for working with neighbors to improve security and reduce the likelihood of crime.	1	2	3	4
<b>About this lesson . . .</b>				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

**What was the most valuable thing you learned?**

**Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.**

**How could this lesson be improved?**

